

REMARKS

The Office Action dated March 19, 2004 states that claims 23-24, 27-41, 50-54, 63, 81-82, 85, 141, 143, 166-189, 192-205, 208-218, 221-233, 236-248, 250-259, 262-263, 265-266, and 268-269 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103. Applicant has canceled each of these claims, rendering this rejection moot.

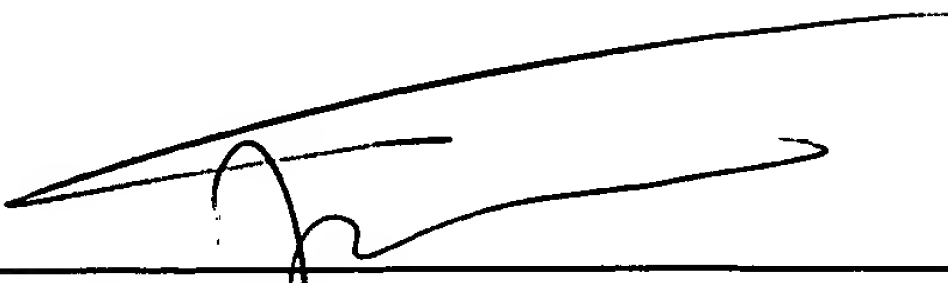
The Office Action objects to claims 73-74, 142-143, 190-191, 206-207, 219-220, 234-235, 248-249, 260-261, and 270-285 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. The Office Action goes on to state that each of these claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicant has amended claims 73-74, 142-143, 190-191, 206-207, 219-220, 234-235, 248-249, and 260-261 into independent form, and included all requested limitations. Applicant has not amended claims 270-285, because they are already in independent format. Based on the statements in the Office Action, Applicant believes that these claims are allowable as they currently stand.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that the present claims are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that a Notice of Allowance be issued.

Respectfully submitted,
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